

# Sumter Lifestyles



With a four-season climate conducive to almost any outdoor sport, Sumter is known for the active lifestyles of its citizens. Golf, fishing, tennis, riding, hiking--there's almost no end to the possibilities for getting out, staying active and having fun!

Sumter encourages healthy lifestyles with walking trails, a municipal aquatics center and tennis courts, riding trails and South Carolina's largest YMCA. Numerous city parks offer recreational opportunities as well as the chance to sit quietly and reflect on the beauty of nature.

The natural beauty of the Sumter area is an enticement for nature lovers, whether for relaxation or adventures in challenging the elements. Among the opportunities for outdoor fun are:

- ◆ Teeing off at one of more than twenty area golf courses,
  - ◆ Serving up for a game of singles or doubles at the Palmetto Tennis Center, the state's largest public tennis complex,
  - ◆ Kicking off for laps at the Sumter Aquatics Center...and so much more!
- Birdwatchers love Swan Lake Iris Gardens, with all eight species of swans and a variety of ducks, geese and other birds.
- Spectator sports are always in season--baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball and more at one of our state-of-the-art sports facilities.
- Sumter is also home to some of the most anticipated annual events in South Carolina. Since 1940, the Sumter Iris Festival has celebrated the blooming of Swan Lake Iris Gardens' namesake flowers. Three days of food, fun, flowers and music, it has three times been named a Top 20 Event in the Southeast. The gardens also host the Fantasy of Lights every December, when the park comes to life nightly with the glitter of more than one million lights. A variety of venues host events during the annual Poinsettia Festival, a celebration that kicks off the holiday season.
- These are just a sampling of Sumter's exciting events, with even more being added as we grow into the 21st century.
- ◆ Strolling along the Cypress Trail or through Swan Lake Iris Gardens,
  - ◆ Hiking the High Hills Extension of the SC Palmetto Trail that stretches from the mountains to the sea,
  - ◆ Biking the pine-shaded paths at Poinsett State Park,
  - ◆ Galloping along the equestrian trails at Manchester State Forest,
  - ◆ Paddling the mysterious "Carolina Bays" at Woods Bay State Natural Area,
  - ◆ Landing the catch of a lifetime at Lake Marion,
  - ◆ Hunting the abundant game at Manchester State Forest during the height of the season,